

Circulation of Irish Banks.

NAME OF BANK.	AUTHORIZED CIRCULATION	AVERAGE CIR- CULATION FOR FOUR WEEKS.	AVERAGE AMOUNT GOLD AND SILVER HELD FOR FOREIGN TRANSACTIONS
Bank of Ireland	1,000,000	1,200,000	1,000,000
Provincial Bank of Ireland	927,667	685,927	251,012
Northern Bank	700,000	494,867	344,528
Ulster Bank	2A.ii.dAQ	c-i-2.727	4^0 ^06
The National Bank	311,079	88s.088	7cc acr
	8^2.260	i 181 74 8	606 ^37
Total	6.3^vd A.QA.	6 2QI.IO7	•7 4C7

The average circulation shown consisted of £2,331,710 in notes of denominations tender £5 and £3,959,397 in notes for £5 and more.

The elastic character of the Irish currency, in spite of the restrictions of law, gives an interest to the fluctuations during the year which result from the varying demand for money. Beginning with January, the amount of the circulation usually declines,—slowly at first, but more rapidly in May, June, and July, until it reaches its lowest point at the end of August. Then begins the process described by Mr. Gilbart, as a consequence of the law that "the monthly circulation must depend upon the quantity of produce brought to market within the month " :

Now, it has been the custom in Ireland to commence "bringing the produce to market immediately after the harvest. Hence arises the increase of the notes in September, and their further increase in the following month. But in the beginning of the year the landlords collect their rents, and receive from their tenants the notes for which this produce has been sold ; this brings the notes back to the bank, either to be placed to his credit (if he have an account there), or, otherwise, in exchange for a letter of credit on Dublin, or a bill on London. The circuit of a note, then, is this :—It is obtained from the bank by a corn-merchant, who pays it to a farmer for his corn, which he ships, to England. The farmer afterwards pays the note for rent to his landlord, who brings it back to the bank. *

One of the peculiar features of the Irish circulation, like the Scottish, is the large proportion of small notes. The

The History, Principles, and
Practice of Banking, II., 250.